

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are presently active in this case. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 16-18, and 21 have been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to for not being descriptive; Claims 1, 14, 17, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,198,895 to Tsuda et al.; and Claims 2, 11-13, 15, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuda et al. in view of Isaka et al.

Claims 3-10 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. However, because Applicants believe themselves entitled to the scope of protection provided for by independent Claims 1, 17, 18, and 21, the dependent claims indicated as being allowable have presently been maintained in dependent form.

In response to the objection to the title, the title has been changed to read
“DEVELOPING DEVICE HAVING A DEVELOPER CARRIER INCLUDING MAIN
AND AUXILIARY MAGNETIC POLES AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS USING
THE SAME.” No further objection on this basis is therefore anticipated.

Briefly recapitulating, the present invention is directed to a developing device having a developer carrier including main and auxiliary magnetic poles. A peak of at least one auxiliary magnetic line of force is positioned between a developing zone and a first metering member. The auxiliary magnetic line of force causes developer to move away from the first metering member to form a magnetic brush before the main magnetic line of force causes it

to do so. At that time, the auxiliary magnetic line of force attracts excess toner towards a surface of the sleeve of the developer carrier and thereby prevents the toner from contributing to development. This successfully reduces the irregular density of a toner image which is to be formed.

Likewise, the present invention provides a developing device including a developer carrier which does not require an agitating member configured to agitate the carrier in the toner and which includes magnetic field forming means which exerts a peak magnetic force of 50 mT or above.

Tsuda et al. illustrate in Figure 6 a developer carrier having four magnetic poles. Assuming that magnetic pole P1 is the main pole and that poles P2, P3 and P4 are the auxiliary poles, Figure 6 fails to illustrate that the peak of either P2, P3, or P4 magnetic lines of force are positioned between the developing zone and doctor blade 6. Consequently, Tsuda et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by Claims 1 and 17.

Regarding Claims 18 and 21, Tsuda et al. fail to disclose or suggest that the developing device does not include an exclusive agitating member and provides a magnetic field forming means which exerts a peak magnetic force of 50 mT or above. Further, the Isaka et al. publication fails to address the deficiencies of the Tsuda et al. patent. Consequently, Tsuda et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by Claims 18 and 21 when considered alone or in combination with Isaka et al.

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 17, 18, and 21 are patentably distinguishable from the applied publications, and the dependent claims thereof are therefore also patentably distinguishable from the applied publications.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

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W. Todd Baker
Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

W. Todd Baker
Registration No. 45,265